

THRU : Chief, G/RR
Chief, D/GG
Acting Chief, GG/S

Approved, 21 Mar 1960
/s/ JAB

16 March 1960

*(Original returned to: Chief, D/GG
A/Ch/GG/S)*

Organization of an Arctic Area Discussion Group

1. In accordance with your instructions, it is proposed that the Geographic Research Area undertake the formation of an Arctic Area Discussion Group to be made up of individuals from within the Agency who have an interest in the area. This group would be an outgrowth of the Soviet Arctic Intelligence Working Group which was established in 1956 to coordinate research activities on the Soviet Arctic within the DD/I. It is suggested the membership of the Group include the original members of the Soviet Arctic Intelligence Working Group as well as other interested individuals throughout the Agency.

2. Objectives of the Group will be:

- a. To provide a forum for exchange of information and ideas of intelligence value on this area;
- b. To focus attention on strategic developments in the Arctic;
- c. To discuss specific problems, usually of current interest;
- d. To identify deficiencies in intelligence on the area and to recommend action to alleviate these deficiencies;
- e. To maintain a listing of Agency personnel who are knowledgeable in specific aspects of Arctic intelligence;
- f. To provide a vehicle for Agency personnel to avail themselves of outside knowledge on Arctic matters, through briefings by and discussions with non-Agency individuals working on the Arctic.

3. The Group will be limited to Agency personnel, at least in the early stages of its development, and all participants will be instructed as to the informal, unofficial status of the Group. The clearance level of the potential members may present some problems since much of the information on the Soviet Arctic is derived from special intelligence sources. It may be found appropriate to limit general meetings to a lower classification and schedule supplementary special meetings when necessary.

4. The USSR Branch, Geography Division, should prepare the groundwork for the Group since the chairmanship of the Soviet Arctic Intelligence Working Group is at present in this branch. Participants will be sought initially and informally from the following components of the Agency:

- a. ORR (D/CG, D/GC, D/GL, ERA units dealing with the Soviet Arctic)
- b. OSI
- c. OGI
- d. OCR
- e. ONE
- f. PIC
- g. DD/P

5. The initial meeting of the Group will consider the following matters:

- a. Introduction of persons present;
- b. Determination of the manner in which the Group will function including time, place, duration of meetings, circulation of agenda and minutes, chairmanship, and secretarial support (available initially from within the GRA);
- c. Tentative consideration of other components that could be represented;
- d. Agenda for the next meeting.

At subsequent meetings it is hoped to build discussion around specific topics that are presented by regular or guest participants.

6. It is requested that approval be granted for GG/S to proceed with informal contacts among the proposed participants specified in paragraph 4, to determine the feasibility of establishing the proposed Group and, if it appears advisable, to proceed with firm plans for an initial meeting of the participants.

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